Dust pollution by Iron ore on Goa

407. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the problems of dust pollution due to transportation of iron in Sanvordem Taluka of South Goa is becoming acute and has caused havoc to public health and agriculture of the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to meet this serious situation

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Dust pollution is caused at Sanvordem Railway Yard where the iron ore is transferred from goods trains to trucks for onward shipment to Marmagao Harbour for export.

(c) Government had constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of the local M.LY.A. to assess the problem of dust pollution in Sanvordem and suggest the mitigative measures to control it. The Committee recommended the shifting of the railway yard to the new location at Xelvona. This alternative could not solve the problem but would have meant degrading fertile agricultural land around Xelvona. Therefore, the State Government has interlia taken measures to contain the pollution problem which include the following:

(i) A compound wall has been constructed around the stacking yard to contain the ore and prevent its erosion to the surrounding locality.

(ii) An entry and exit gate has been constructed which regulates the movement of trucks on defined roads.

(iii) The road adjacent to the stack yard has been provided with adequate drainage facility to regulate the flow of polluted water during the monsoon.

(iv) Trees have been planted around the stack yard and the road to contain the dust pollution.

(v) The Government have directed the concerned compaines as well as he traffic police to maintain strict control over the unloading and loading of ore and take mitigative measures while the trucks are on the move.

(vi) The South Central Railway and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation who are responsible for mineral ore transportation have been asked to proved permanent water sprinklers to control dust pollution.

Poaching of tigers in National parks and Sanctuaries

408. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of poaching of tigers in the National Parks and Sanctuaries;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported to his Ministry during 1993, 1994 and so far in 1995 and

(c) the steps taken to stop poaching and to increase the tiger population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Reports of seizure of tiger bones and skins are a pointer to continuing incidents of tiger poaching in India, due to demand for these items in the international market.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Steps taken by the Government are as under:

(i) A Tiger Crisis Cell has been set up in the Ministry.

(ii) State Government have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling around the Tiger Reserves.

(iii) Steps have been initiated to set up a Special Strike Force in the Project Tiger areas.

(iv) Steps have been taken to set up a Global Tiger Forum with membership of all 13 range States. India has recently ratified the Statutes of the GTF.

(v) A bilateral Protocol on Tiger Conservation was recently singed with China, which, inter-alia, provides for co-operation in controlling poaching.

मध्य प्रदेश में निरवनीकृत भूमि

409. **श्री राधवजी :** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में इस समय निरवनीकृत भूमि का क्षेत्र कितना है ;

(ख) क्या इस क्षेत्र में वनारोपण हेतु कोई योजना बनाई गयी है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है, और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है; और

(ग) यदि उपर्युक्त भाग (ख) का उत्तर "न" है तो क्या भविष्य में ऐसी कोई योजना बनाई जाएगी और क्या गैर सरकारी क्षेत्र के सहयोग से इस कार्य के शीघ्र निष्पादन के लिए कोई प्रयास किए जाएंगे ?

पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) (क) भारतीय वन सर्वेक्षण द्वारा, प्रकाशित स्टेट आफ फारेस्ट रिपोर्ट, 1993 के अनुसार मध्य प्रदेश में वनावरण क्षेत्र (10% से 40% तक सघनता) 39,859 वर्ग कि०मी० है।

(ख) केन्द्र और राज्य सरकार की धनराशि से अवक्रमित वन क्षेत्रों और वन क्षेत्रों की आसपास की भूमि, राष्ट्रीय उद्यानों, अभयारण्यों, और अन्य सुरक्षित क्षेत्रों, तथा परिस्थितिकी रूप से संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों जैसे पश्चिमी हिमालय, अरावली, पश्चिमी घाट आदि में वनीकरण और सुधार कार्य किए जाते हैं। इन वनीकरण कार्यों के लिए पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय निम्नलिखित स्कीमों के तहत आर्थिक सहायता प्रदान करता है।

1. एकीकृत वनीकरण और पारिस्थितिकी विकास परियोजनाओं की स्कीम।

2. क्षेत्रोन्मुखी ईंधन लकड़ी तथा चारा परियोजना स्कीम।

3. औषधीय पौधों सहित लघुवनोपज स्कीम।

4. स्वैच्छिक एजेंसियों को अनुदान सहायता।

5. राष्ट्रीय उद्यानों और अभयारण्यों का विकास।

6. हाथी परियोजना।

7. बाघ परियोजना।

8. जैवीय दबाव से वनों की सुरक्षा हेतु आधार-भूत ढांचों का विकास।

9. अवक्रमित वनों के सुधार में अनुसूचित जनजातियों तथा निर्धन ग्रामीणों को शामिल करना।

10. आधुनिक दावानल नियंत्रण विधियां।

(ग) उपर्युक्त स्कीमों के अतिरिक्त, देश में व्यापक फैली अवक्रमित वन भूमि पर बढ़ते अवक्रमण के खतरे को देखते हुए तथा उस भूमि पर तत्काल वनीकरण करके उसके हरित क्षेत्र में विस्तार किए जाने, अवक्रमण और मृदा क्षरण को रोकने, ईंधन और चारे की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने, और इस प्रकार मौजूदा